

REMARKS

In the August 13, 2007 Office Action, claims 1, 4 and 13 were rejected in view of prior art. No other objections or rejections were made in the Office Action.

Status of Claims and Amendments

In response to the August 13, 2007 Office Action, Applicants have amended claim 1 and canceled claims 4 and 13, as indicated above. Thus, only independent claim 1 is pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claim are respectfully requested in view of above amendments and the following comments.

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,885,197 (Zapka et al.). In response, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 and canceled claim 13 to clearly define the present invention over the prior art of record.

In particular, independent claim 1 now recites that the thin portion of the semiconductor device is a selective oxide film. This structure is *not* disclosed or suggested by Zapka et al., or any other prior art of record. It is well settled under U.S. patent law that for a reference to anticipate a claim, the reference must disclose each and every element of the claim within the reference. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, as now amended, is not anticipated by the prior art of record. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

Appl. No. 10/605,585
Amendment dated October 24, 2007
Reply to Office Action of March 26, 2007

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

On page 3 of the Office Action, claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). However since claim 4 has been cancelled, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is moot.

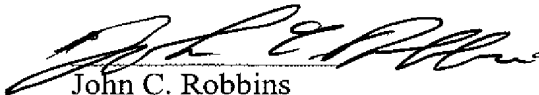
Prior Art Citation

In the Office Action, additional prior art references were made of record. Applicants believe that these references do not render the claimed invention obvious.

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In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 1 is now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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